

Boy Scouts of America

Citizenship in the Nation

Scout Information

Welcome to the Learning Center, where you can learn about the judicial branch of government.

This packet includes discussion questions that will help you fulfill merit badge requirements and a map that shows where in the Learning Center you'll find some of the answers. We've also included extra sources of information if you're interested in learning more.

Please enjoy the Learning Center, including the computers and push-button questions. (Remember, all the questions read from left to right.) Have fun and thank you for visiting!

Citizenship in the Nation

Room 1

2) Name the three branches of government and explain their functions. Explain the checks and balances on each branch of government.	Three Branches of Government
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1. What are the three branches of government and what do they do?

2. Who leads each branch of government?

3. Explain the reasoning behind checks and balances?

4. Do you think three branches of government are necessary? If not, how would you change the system?

Further information

- <http://courts.mi.gov/lc-gallery/3-branches-govt.htm>
- Computers—*Court Overview: Judicial, Legislative, Executive and the Michigan Court System*

Which Branch Is It?

Directions: Place a check in the column to the right of the correct Branch of Government for each of the following:

	Executive	Legislative	Judicial
1. County sheriff			
2. Department of Mental Health			
3. Department of Treasury			
4. Friend of the Court			
5. County jail			
6. City council person			
7. County Prosecuting Attorney			
8. State Senator			
9. Attorney General			
10. State Court Administrative Office			
11. City attorney			

Answers: 1=E; 2=E; 3=E; 4=J; 5=E; 6=E; 7=E; 8=L; 9=E; 10=J; 11=E



Executive Branch



Legislative Branch



Judicial Branch

Room 2

1C) After reading, discuss with your counselor the following documents.

U.S. Constitution (replication)

1. When did the Constitution take effect and what are the first ten amendments called?

2. Why do you think having a Constitution is important?

Further information

- See also **Major Events Leading up to the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution**



Room 2

1E) After reading, discuss with your counselor the following documents.

Amendments to the Constitution

1. Which three amendments are often cited in court cases and what freedoms do they guarantee?

2. Which branch of government is the final word in interpreting the Constitution?

3. Which three amendments were added after the Civil War and what issue did they resolve?

4. Choose one court case showing how amendments protect our rights and explain.

Further information

- See also **Civil Rights Thwarted**
- http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

Room 2

3) Outline the relationships between state and federal governments.

How a Case Begins

1. What is the difference between a state and federal court case?

2. How are they similar?



Room 4

1D) After reading, discuss with your counselor the following documents:	Bill of Rights
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1. What rights are protected under the First Amendment?

2. What are three real-life examples of First Amendment rights?

3. Why is this amendment so important?

4. What are some other amendments? And why are they important?

Further information:

- See also **May Your Principal Search Your Locker?; An Uncommon Freedom; Role of the Public; Defense Attorney; Jury: Bill of Rights; Tug of War**
- http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/bill_of_rights_transcript.html